GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SPACE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:55
ANSWERED ON:07.07.2004
SPACE RESEARCH
Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Varma Shri Ratilal Kalidas

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed agreement with other countries in the field of space research;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far by India in the field of space research?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER`S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a),(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. & (c)

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) & (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 55 REGARDING `SPACE RESEARCH` BY SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA AND SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN FOR ANSWER ON 7.7.2004
a) Yes, Sir.

b) Agreements or Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with several countries and space agencies namely Australia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, China, EUMETSAT, European Space Agency, France, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Mauritius, Mongolia, Norway, Peru, Russia, Sweden, Syria, Thailand, U.K., Ukraine and U.S.A. for cooperation in different areas of space research.

c) The major accomplishment of Space Research in India is the self-reliant development of world class satellites and satellite launch vehicles and utilising the space systems in several areas relevant to national development in a cost effective manner. India has established two indigenously built operational satellite systems namely the Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS) and the Indian National Satellite System (INSAT) contributing to national development in various fronts. India`s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is well proven through seven successive successful flights and it provides self-reliant launch capability to orbit remote sensing satellites of 1.4 ton class in polar sun synchronous orbits. The Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV) has been successfully flight tested twice, making India the sixth nation in the world to demonstrate capabilities for geostationery satellite launch. The multipurpose INSAT Satellite System which is one of the largest domestic satellite systems in the world is the mainstay for the Television broadcasting services through connectivity to more than 1100 Television Transmitters, networking of radio stations, provision of cyclone warnings, gathering meteorological data, assisting weather forecasting and providing search and rescue support. These satellites are also extensively used for carrying out rural development programmes such as tele-medicine and tele-education. The IRS satellites are among the best in the world for generating information useful for management of natural resources including location of zones of availability of ground water and monitoring of agricultural crops. The data from IRS satellites are used worldwide on a commercial basis. Front ranking scientific investigations are being carried out in the fields of astronomy, atmospheric sciences and long term climatic research using satellites, balloons, sounding rockets and ground instruments. India is embarking on an ambitious programme called Chandrayaan-1 for placing a satellite around the moon in order to conduct a large scale survey of the lunar surface. In a nutshell, it has been recognised world-wide that Indian Space Programme`s contributions to several areas of national development vis-a-vis its modest budget allocations are significant.